GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:418
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004
EXTRA WINTER CLOTHING
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a need for extra winter clothing for soldiers deployed at Siachen Glacier as reported in the Indian Express dated the November 7, 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing extra winter clothing;

(c) the time by when the army will get financial clearance for third set of clothing for soldiers;

(d) the countries from which clothing and equipment is imported; and

(e) the steps taken to meet the demand indigenously?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (e): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 418 FOR 2.12.2004

The Indian Army is authorized to maintain two sets of special clothing and mountaineering equipment for Siachen and Super High Altitude areas. Out of these, one set is authorized to the troops in the field formations and the second set is maintained as reserve. There are no shortages in the special clothing and mountaineering equipment. No proposal to provide for the third set of clothing is under consideration of the Government as the present system of providing 100% reserve is adequate. The procurement is not country specific. As per the procurement procedure, to maintain price competition, Request for Proposals (RFP) are issued to approved vendors for the item under procurement regardless of the fact whether the source of procurement is indigenous or from abroad. From time to time, out of 52 items authorized for the special clothing and mountaineering equipment, 19 items have been imported from Switzerland, Canada, Italy, Singapore, Austria, France, Norway, United Kingdom, Poland, Sweden, Australia and United States of America. 33 items have been indigenised.